

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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UNCLAS ATHENS 2063

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S PRESS REMARKS AND
GREEK GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

BONN PASS HARTMAN

1. FOLLOWING ONE-HOUR MEETING ON MARCH 12 WITH GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN WAS INTERCEPTED BY JOURNALISTS OUTSIDE FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE AS HE, AMBASSADOR KUBISCH AND DCM STEARNS WERE LEAVING. BY PREARRANGEMENT WITH BITSIOS, HARTMAN TOLD CORRESPONDENTS "I HAD A CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS WHOM I BRIEFED ON THE TALKS WE HAD IN ANKARA. LATER TODAY WE SHALL MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN." TO QUERY ON WHETHER HE WOULD MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, HARTMAN REPLIED NEGATIVELY. QUERIED ON WHETHER THERE HOPES OF FINDING A WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE ON CYPRUS, HARTMAN COMMENTED "I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN DETECT SOME PROGRESS IN THESE TALKS AND WE HOPE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS."

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2. TO ADDITIONAL QUESTION ON WHETHER HE FAVORED CONTINUATION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN REMARKED

"I DO NOT WISH TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR TALKS. SECRETARY KISSINGER IS TRYING TO BE USEFUL AND TO FIND A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED; AND IT IS EXACTLY ON THIS ISSUE THAT I HAVE BRIEFED THE FOREIGN MINISTER." FINALLY, TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD VISIT GREECE, HARTMAN ANSWERED "I DO NOT THINK SO. AT THE PRESENT DR. KISSINGER IS OCCUPIED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST." (ALL QUOTES OF HARTMAN'S REMARKS ARE TRANSLATIONS FROM GREEK TEXTS CARRIED IN NEWSPAPERS)

3. UNDER SECRETARY FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION LAMBRIAS BRIEFED NEWSMEN LATER IN DAY ON THE BITSIOS-HARTMAN METING. REFERRING TO HARTMAN'S BRIEFING, LAMBRIAS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES EXIST SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS GAINED THE HOPE FROM HIS TALKS IN ANKARA THAT ELEMENTS MAY BE FOUND TO ASSIST IN OVERCOMING THE EXISTING IMPASSE. HE ADDED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ASSURED THE GREEK SIDE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS THAT DIRECTION

4. NEWSPAPERS (AND RADIO/TV) CARRIED ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S REMARKS AND GOG COMMENTS PROMINENTLY AS WELL AS PHOTOGRAPHS OF HARTMAN WITH AMBASSADOR KUBISCH. GENERAL PRESS COVERAGE ON CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS IS REPORTED SEPTTEL.
KUBISCH

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